

WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM



Romantic Adventures

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The MAGAZINE OF YOUTH AND LOVE!

10¢

OH, HENRY, HENRY...DON'T TURN AWAY
FROM ME! IT'S TRUE I'VE GOT ONLY
ONE YEAR TO LIVE! BUT IT CAN BE A
YEAR OF HAPPINESS IF YOU PROMISE
TO LOVE ME AND STAY AT MY SIDE...
UNTIL THE END!

I...I LOVED
YOU...BUT
NOW...



Can TRUE ROMANCE
CONQUER DEATH?
Read
"NO TIME FOR LOVE"
... Complete
IN THIS ISSUE!

HAVE A SLIMMER YOUTHFUL FEMININE APPEARANCE INSTANTLY!

Don't look old before your time. Do as thousands of others do, wear comfortable new and improved UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT! The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT, with the amazing new adjustable front panel, controls your figure the way you want it, with added support where you need it most. Simply adjust the laces and PRESTO your mid section is reshaped and your back braced and you look and feel younger!



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The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT takes weight off tired feet and gives you a more alluring, more daringly feminine, curvaceous figure the instant you put it on. It gives you lovely curves just in the right places, with no unwanted bulges in the wrong ones. It whitewash your waistline to nothingness, no matter what shape you may now have. It's easily adjusted — always comfortable!

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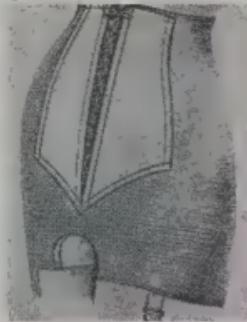
Style: Panty and regular. Colors: Nude and white. It's made of the finest stretch material used in any girdle, with a pure satin front panel and made by the most skilled craftsmen. It's light in weight, but powerfully strong. It won't roll up, bulge or curl at the top. It gives extra-double support where you need it most. No other girdle at any price can give you better support, can make you look better, feel better or appear slimmer. Sizes 24 to 44 waist. Only.....

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I understand if not delighted with the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT, I can return it in 10 days for full purchase price refund.

SENT ON APPROVAL!

From RAGS to ROMANCE



Ever hear of PYGMALION, reader--the ancient sculptor who carved an ivory statue which magically became the living, vibrant GALATEA? Well, HIS job was an easy one compared to MINE! I'M WAYNE YARDLEY, Park Avenue Playboy--who found his Galatea in the depths of the Florida swamps! It's a strange story--the story of the heart of a barefoot beggar girl--the tale of a man TORN BETWEEN TWO LOVES!"

"It all started one December day in Florida. Where I was spending the winter--the day we decided to drive out into the backwoods swamps to see how the OTHER half lived!"

"I'M GLAD IT'S WAYNE'S TURN TO DRIVE! IT GIVES ME A CHANCE TO SIT WITH YOU, ELOISE--EVEN IF YOU ARE HIS GIRL!"

"HEAR WHAT GORDON'S SAYING. WAYNE? HOPE IT MAKES YOU JEALOUS--CAUSE I THINK HE'S THE HANDSOMEST FRIEND YOU'VE GOT!"

"I knew that Eloise was saying that merely because she enjoyed tantalizing me!"

"But whenever she acted this way, I could never down the stab of pain in my heart!"

SHE KNOWS I'M SO DESPERATELY IN LOVE WITH HER... SHE THINKS SHE CAN DO ANYTHING SHE WANTS--!

HEY--I TOLD YOU NOT TO DRIVE SO FAST IN THIS HOT WEATHER! THE RADIATOR'S BOILING OVER!



"Yes, I felt the same way about the poor wretch as THEY did -- but my anger at them was fanned by their smugness, their snobbish superiority! I must have deliberately picked that quarrel, not believing my own words..."



"I realized I'd gone too far -- was about to laugh the whole thing off as a joke! But then Eloise's cold smile and infuriating words made me lose complete control of myself!"

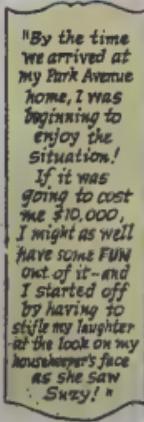
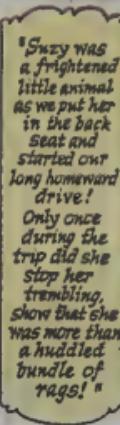


"I KNEW THE INSANITY OF IT, EVEN AS I SPOKE! That grubby, filthy little scattnern could NEVER be changed! But I COULDN'T back down now -- not when I'd have to endure Eloise's mocking, contemptuous laughter! I HAD to go through with it!"

ER -- HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO -- UH -- COME TO NEW YORK WITH ME -- SEE THE BIG CITY -- BECOME A LADY? YOU'LL HAVE EVERYTHING YOU WANT --







"In a burst of inspiration, I suddenly recalled the earring episode — and I realized how I could handle her!"

SUZY-YOU LIKE EARRINGS AND JEWELRY, DON'T YOU? WELL, IF YOU'RE GOOD AND PROMISE TO DO AS WE TELL YOU, I'LL GO OUT RIGHT NOW AND BUY YOU A HATFUL!"

YUH'LL REALLY GIT 'EM FER ME - BRACELETS AN' RINGS AN' EVERYTHIN'?
I... I PROMISE -- I'D DO ANYTHIN' FER JOOLERY!

"It worked! Exultantly, I left to shop for some clothes for Suzy—and for some JOODLERY!"

ODODO! IT-IT BURNS MUH EYES!
MAN ALLUS SAID SOAP WUZ ON HEALTHY... BUT SHE DIDN'T TELL ME IT WUZ PIZEN!

IT'S NOT POISON—
BUT I CAN SEE YOU STAYED AWAY FROM IT AS IF IT WERE! HEAVENS, WHAT A STATE YOU'RE IN — YOU'RE A MIGHTY LUCKY GIRL MR. YARDLEY TAKES AN INTEREST IN YOU! HE'LL CHANGE YOU — IF ANYBODY CAN!"

"Later..."

I SHOULD HAVE GONE OUT AND BOUGHT YOU CLOTHES! MR. YARDLEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT SIZE YOU WORE, SO HE GOT THOSE — SINCE CALICO SHIRTS AND JEANS FIT ANYONE! BUT

AT LEAST THEY'RE CLEAN!
AIN'T THEY PURTY?
THESE ARE THE BESTEST CLOTHES I EVER HAD — I'M GOIN' DOWN AN' SHOW 'EM OFF TUH HIM!

When Suzy came running to me in the clothes I'd bought, her eyes almost begging for approval and admiration, I knew she had at least ONE attribute of a woman — VANITY!!

THAT'S VERY NICE,
SUSANNAH — YOU LOOK VERY PRETTY! AND NOW THAT YOU'RE ALL CLEANED UP, WE'LL START RIGHT IN WITH OUR FIRST LESSON IN MAKING A LADY OUT OF YOU!

NO!
NOT TILL YUH GIMME THE JOODLERY!
YUH PROMISED--!

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN!
— HERE IT IS!

ODODO! LOOKIT
LUCKY SNE 'EM-SHININ'
NEVER HEARD
OF
WOOLWORTH'S!

"Like a Savage, she snatched away the trinkets I had purchased, strewed them gaudily over her person!"

Maybe this bet WAS going to turn out to be fun — right now I had to use all my power to keep from bursting into riotous laughter!"

THAR!
AIN'T I PURTY?
YES, SUZY — YOU...
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY LAUGHABLE — I MEAN, LOVABLE!

"Then, with Suzy docile as a contented animal, our lessons started —"

DON'T SAY "AIN'T"
I PRETTY?" SAY
"AM I NOT PRETTY?"

DOG — D-O-G!
CAT — C-A-T!

HUH, YOU AIN'T PURTY! OHN, I SEE WHUT YUH MEAN — AM I NOT PURTY?"

DOG...
D-O—
GEE WHIZ,
THIS SPELLIN'
IS HARD!

"Day after day,
week after week,
the lessons
continued!"

I soon
discovered
that Suzy had
an excellent
mind—and
she made
remarkable
progress,
considering
that her
heart
wasn't
in it!"

NOW, THIS IS THE
WAY CIVILIZED
PEOPLE HOLD THEIR
KNIVES AND FORKS
WHEN THEY EAT!

GOSH, I DON'T SEE
WHAT'S WRONG WITH
FINGERS! BUT
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU
WANT ME
TO DO --

"Then, one day..."

BACK STRAIGHT... CHIN
UP... STOMACH IN-GOSH.
THIS DICTIONARY IS HEAVY! HOW MUCH LONGER
DO I HAVE TO KEEP THIS UP?

SUZY, I'VE GOT GREAT
NEWS FOR YOU! YOU'VE
MADE ASTOUNDING
PROGRESS — AND I THINK
IT'S ABOUT TIME I SHOWED
YOU OFF! I'M GOING TO
INVITE TWO PEOPLE HERE
TO DINNER, AND I WANT
YOU TO BE AT
YOUR VERY
BEST!

"Yes, I wanted
to be proud
of the little
human I'd
fashioned out
of an animal!
I wanted to
GLOAT over
Elmer's discom-
fiture and Gordon's
amazement!
But I should
have known what
HER VERY BEST
meant to Suzy
—for on
the night
of the
dinner..."

HAW, HAW! IS
THIS THE LADY
YOU WANTED US
TO SEE? YOU'D
BETTER GIVE
HER BACK TO
THE INDIANS!

HA, HA -- IT'S THE
FUNNIEST THING I'VE
SEEN IN YEARS! YOU'RE
A DARLING TO HAVE
PUT ON THIS SHOW FOR US,
WAYNE! SHE'S
A RIOT!

OH,
SUZY!

"I sensed the fury in Suzy's eyes—
and knew that the thin veneer I had
imposed upon her was being stripped
away, revealing the barbaric primitive
that still smoldered beneath!"

YOU — YOU BRING 'EM HERE SO'S
THEY COULD LAUGH AT ME — JEST
LIKE LAST TIME! I'M A JOKE TO
YOU — ALL OF YOU! I AINT GONNA
TAKE IT NO MORE — I AIN'T!

SUZY — PLEASE
LISTEN — AND
DON'T SAY
"AIN'T"!

I AIN'T LISTENIN'—
I AIN'T GONNA KEEP
YOUR DIRTY
PRESENTS—
HERE!

AN I AIN'T GONNA
STAY HERE NO MORE!
I HATE YOU— ALL
OF YOU!

HEY!

SUZY—
WAIT!

"By the time I got to the
door, Suzy had already
burst out of the house!
I saw her standing frozen
with fear, trembling, lost
in the maze of blaring
traffic outside the house!"



"By the time I could thread my way through the traffic, she had seized upon an opening and fled like a desperate, frightened fawn to the safety of the sidewalk--and collapsed there like a trapped animal, wracked with sobs!"

WHO IS SHE?
DID SHE ESCAPE
FROM SOME
INSTITUTION?

HERE--LET ME
THROUGH!
I'LL TAKE CARE
OF HER!

"I expected a fresh outburst of rage, and so I was momentarily stunned by the look of abject gratitude in her tear-streaked face--as though I had rescued her from some horrible fate!"

WAYNE! YOU--YOU
CAME FOR ME! OH,
I WAS SO SCARED--
I LIKED TO DIE!
I...I DIDN'T MEAN
WHAT I SAID TO
YOU--SAY YOU'LL
TAKE ME BACK
--PLEASE!

HUSH, SUZY--HUSH!
OF COURSE I'LL
TAKE YOU BACK!

"But Suzy's frightened sobs didn't stop! I guided her to a nearby park bench, tried to calm her fears! Casually, I brushed my lips against her cheek--as I'd do to ANY terror-stricken child..."

THERE, THERE, SUZY--
EVERYTHING'LL BE ALL
RIGHT!

ONHH--
WAYNE!

HE--HE
KISSED ME!
LIKE HE
LOVES
ME--

I--I NEVER
EVEN
DREAMED
YOU--YOU
COULD
CARE--

THERE! NOW YOU'RE
ACTING SENSIBLY--
I TOLD YOU THERE'S
NO NEED FOR TEARS!
AND YOU DON'T HAVE
TO KEEP ON THANKING
ME--JUST SHOW YOUR
GRATITUDE BY REALLY
TRYING TO ACT LIKE
A LADY FROM NOW
ON!

"From then on, Suzy underwent a remarkable change! I couldn't understand it--she threw herself enthusiastically into her lessons as if her heart were REALLY in it, and her progress was truly amazing! Finally--

SUZY, YOU'RE TERRIFIC!
YOU'RE ENOUGH OF A
LADY NOW FOR ME
TO TAKE YOU TO A
REAL PARTY! I'M
TEA FOR THE LAST
THREE CUPS--AM
I ENOUGH OF A LADY SO PROUD OF YOU,
SO YOU'LL WANT TO
TAKE ME TO A
TEA-PARTY
NOW?

"I WAS proud of my accomplishment at civilizing the little primitive I'd brought home! I determined to unveil her at one of Eloise's exclusive gatherings!"

SO THIS IS THE GIRL GORDON'S
BEEN TELLING ME ABOUT!
WELL, WAYNE--WHAT CAN
SHE DO?

I'LL SHOW YOU!--
ALL RIGHT, SUSANNAH--
SAY SOMETHING FOR
THE NICE PEOPLE! TELL
THEM SOMETHING I'VE
TAUGHT YOU!

"I couldn't understand the hurt, stricken look she turned on me--had I said something to offend her? But then, she forced herself to turn bravely toward the crowd, and she began speaking, stiffly, painfully--"

TO BE A LADY... I MUST BE...
GRACEFUL... POLITE... CHARMING...
VI... VIVACIOUS...



"She'd certainly picked the wrong thing to say, but at least she'd shown her vocabulary!"

And when the applause and laughter broke out, my chest swelled with pride at my accomplishment!"

BRAVO!
BRAVO!
IT
TALKS!

YES SIR, YOU WOULDN'T THINK THAT ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO, SUZY WAS A LITTLE SWAMP GIRL-- JUST ONE STEP ABOVE THE ANIMAL KINGDOM! WHY, YOU COULD ALMOST MISTAKE HER FOR AN AVERAGE, NORMAL AMERICAN GIRL NOW!

HA, HA -- YES, YOU COULD -- EXCEPT FOR THOSE CLOTHES SHE'S WEARING! IF THAT'S YOUR IDEA OF WHAT THE WELL-DRESSED LADY SHOULD WEAR, WAYNE -- I'M AFRAID ELOISE IS GOING TO HAVE TROUBLE WITH YOU!

NOTHING YOU CAN SAY WILL DETRACT FROM MY TRIUMPH -- AND RIGHT NOW, I'M GOING TO CELEBRATE WITH A COUPLE OF DRINKS!

"THEY'VE HAD THEIR LAUGH! HE--HE'S NOT EVEN PAYING ATTENTION TO ME -- NO ONE IS! I--I WANT TO GET AWAY FROM THEM... HIDE SOMEWHERE!"

"NO ONE'S IN THIS ROOM -- OHHH! ALL THOSE PRETTY DRESSES! AND THEY WERE LAUGHING AT MY CLOTHES! I--I WONDER -- MAYBE IF I WORE ONE OF THESE --"

"GEE, IT SURE IS PRETTY! BUT MY HAIR -- IT... IT'S NOT LIKE THE WAY OTHER WOMEN HAVE IT! BUT MAYBE I CAN FIX THAT, TOO!"

"THERE -- THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! MAYBE -- MAYBE HE'LL LOVE ME MORE NOW -- EVEN KISS ME AGAIN! I'LL GO DOWN AND SHOW HIM RIGHT NOW!"

"In the midst of a drink, I suddenly felt a hush come over the room, sensed an electrifying air of tenseness!"

"WHO... WHO'S THAT? WHY, SHE'S LOVELY -- BREATHAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL!"

"I looked toward the spot where all eyes were focused - and stood stunned with amazement at the radiant vision that met my astonished gaze!"

GOOD HEAVENS, IT... IT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE! THAT'S SUZY!



"Before I could recover from my shock, all the other men in the room had swarmed about Suzy, surrounded her, each one trying to win her glance! And I - I knew I couldn't stay away, either!"

I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! I'VE GOT TO GET TO HER -- OH, NO YOU DON'T, WAYNE YAROLEY! HOW DARE YOU LOOK AT HER THAT WAY? ARE YOU FORGETTING WE'RE ENGAGED?



I WON'T STAND FOR YOUR ACTING THAT WAY! IF-IF I EVER CATCH YOU LOOKING AT HER LIKE THAT-

HE - HE'S GOING IN THERE - WITH HER!



SO YOU DON'T WANT A SCENE EH? WHAT'S THE MATTER - AFRAID PEOPLE WILL FIND OUT THAT YOU - YOU'RE REALLY INTERESTED IN THAT SUZY OF YOURS?

DON'T BE SILLY, ELOISE. YOU KNOW MY ONLY INTEREST IN HER IS TO WIN THAT BET BY CHANGING HER FROM THE SAVAGE SHE IS INTO AT LEAST A HALF-BAKED IMITATION OF A WOMAN! AS SOON AS I'VE COLLECTED, I'LL SEND HER BACK TO THE SWAMP-RATS SHE BELONGS WITH!

"I knew that my words were cruel, but there was a wild elation in my heart - for I realized that Eloise had finally shown JEALOUSY! Wasn't this what I sought - some indication of love from the woman who'd always held me at arm's length? There was more surrender in her eyes as I clasped her to me -"

I COULDN'T EVER LOVE ANYONE ELSE BUT YOU, SWEETHEART!

OHHH, YOU... YOU FAITHLESS, LYING -!



SUZY! YOU!

YES -- ME -- THE SWAMP-RAT! AND I... I THOUGHT YOU LOVED ME THAT DAY YOU RAN AFTER ME AND KISSED ME! THAT WAS WHY I TRIED SO HARD TO BE THE KIND OF LADY I THOUGHT YOU WANTED ME TO BE! BUT IT WAS ALL FOR A BET - YOU JUST WANTED ME TO BE A LAUGHING-STOCK!



I -- I GUESS YOU WERE RIGHT, THOUGH - ABOUT ME BEING A SAVAGE! HERE - I'LL PROVE IT!

HEY... OWW!





"Desperately,
I redoubled my
efforts to find
Suzy—to find
MY LOVE!"

Once again,
failure—and
I flung myself
into one
distraction
after another
in an attempt
to drown the
anguished love
in my heart!
Then, at one of
Eloise's parties
one day..."

"ALL RIGHT, QUIET, EVERYONE!
THE BLUE NETWORK IS SUPPOSED TO
UNVEIL ITS GLAMOROUS NEW TELEVISION
STAR TONIGHT! THEY'VE KEPT HER
IDENTITY A SECRET—BUT I'LL BET
IT'S SOME FAMOUS HOLLYWOOD
STAR!"



"Idly, I glanced at the television screen,
grateful for anything that would divert
me from my desolation! Then, as the
screen lit up..."

"And here she is, folks—the Blue
Network's glamorously sensational
new television personality—
MISS SUE MATTHEWS!"

WHA--?
THAT--THAT'S
SUZY!



"A joyous
elation gripped
me—and an
overwhelming
sense of
wonder!
How had little
Suzy, the
daughter of the
backwoods
SWAMPS, risen
to such a
height?
But it was
enough that
I HAD
FOUND
HER!"

I'VE FOUND HER
—AT LAST!
I'VE GOT TO
GO TO HER—
TELL HER—

YOU'LL DO
NOTHING OF
THE KIND!
I DON'T KNOW HOW
THAT—that
CREATURE MANAGED
IT—but you'll never
see her again as long
as WE'RE ENGAGED!



"As I looked
down at the
snug, cold,
loveless face
of the girl
I had once
thought
I loved, a
feeling of
utter contempt
swept me!
SHE was for
a man like
Gordon!
If THAT was a
lady, I'd take
my little
SWAMP
GIRL!"

WELL, IN THAT CASE,
SISTER—WE'RE NOT
ENGAGED!

OHHHH!



"My heart soared on wings of love as
I sped to the television studios! I
headed straight for her dressing room—
and—"

SUZY—AT LAST
I'VE FOUND YOU!

OHHH—YOU!
YOU MEAN—YOU'VE
BEEN LOOKING
FOR ME?

NOT JUST LOOKING, BUT
SEARCHING—YEARNING
FOR YOU—for the girl
I LOVE! PLEASE FORGIVE
ME FOR WHATEVER PAIN
I'VE CAUSED YOU.
I WAS BLIND BEFORE,
BUT THESE MONTHS
OF AGONY HAVE
TAUGHT ME —



—THAT YOU'RE THE GIRL
I LOVE—AND WANT TO
MARRY!



"I swept her headlong into my
arms—hungrily found her lips!
A soaring ecstasy flooded through
me—the ecstasy of romance
discovered—of longing fulfilled!"

"Then suddenly, in that moment of my greatest happiness, the girl I loved struggled from my embrace! And in her eyes, there was - HATRED!"



"It was then
that the world
collapsed
dizzily about
my ears -- and
the light of
joy and hope
fled from
my life!
Agonized
days
followed --
days
of
loneliness,
grief!"

I ... I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT
SEEING HER! AND YET I CAN'T
EVEN GET NEAR HER -- THE
STUDIO'S THREATENED TO HAVE
ME ARRESTED IF I BOthered
HER AGAIN! I'VE GOT TO
THINK OF SOMETHING ...
ANYTHING!



"And then, the heaven-sent answer came --
in the person of Suzy's new publicity agent!"

I'M GONNA SYNDICATE HER WHOLE LIFE STORY -- HOW
A TALENT SCOUT PICKED HER UP lost ON THE STREET
-- HOW THE BLUE NETWORK TRAINED HER, KEPT HER
COVERED UP SO'S THEY COULD SPRING HER AS A
SURPRISE! AND I'M FLYIN' SUE AND A CORPS OF
NEWSMEN AND PHOTOGRAPHERS DOWN TO HER HOME
IN FLORIDA -- FOR AN ON-THE-SPOT STORY OF HOW
SHE CAME UP FROM RAGS TO RICHES AND ROMANCE!
AND SINCE YOU DISCOVERED HER, I WANT YOU IN
ON THIS STUNT! BUT SHE'D KILL ME IF SHE KNEW
ABOUT IT!

I--I'LL GO WITH YOU! AT
LEAST I'LL SEE HER
AGAIN!

"The press agent smuggled me on board the plane,
JUST before it took off, and Suzy didn't see me until
WE WERE AIRBORNE! But when she DID see me -- !!"

SUZY, I ... I ...

YOU! DON'T EVEN
TALK TO ME -- JUST
GET OFF THIS
PLANE!



WE'RE IN THE AIR --
HE CAN'T GET OFF!
I'LL JUST KEEP YOU TWO
SEPARATED UNTIL WE LAND -- MAYBE
YOU'LL BE CALM BY THEN!

"But the stormy scene that Suzy gave
vent to was **NOTHING** compared to
the storm that seized and flung the
plane around hours later!"

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO LET
YOU TALK ME INTO FLYING YOU DOWN IN THIS
HURRICANE WEATHER -- BECAUSE WE'RE IN
ONE RIGHT NOW! AND WE'VE NO PLACE
TO LAND -- WE'RE RIGHT OVER
THE FLORIDA SWAMPS!

WELL, DO
SOMETHING --
WE'LL CRASH!

WE'RE BEING FORCED
DOWN! HOLD TIGHT,
EVERYBODY!



WE'RE SAFE --
CAUGHT IN
THE TREE TOPS! -- GRAB HOLD
OF SUE, LOOK
OUT! THING! OHN-
IT'S TOO LATE!



"Heart thudding with fear, I made my way to the yawning door! Holding on tightly, I looked down -- and choked with a cold, desperate terror."

SUE--LOOK OUT! THERE'S AN ALLIGATOR BEHIND YOU!

"One moment of paralyzing shock -- and then I knew what I would have to do.

I DON'T HAVE ANY WEAPONS -- I DON'T HAVE A CHANCE, BUT I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT HER -- SO AT LEAST I CAN DIE FOR HER.

"I... I CAN'T HOLD ON -- I'M LOSING MY GRIP! I'M DOOMED -- UNLESS--WAIT!"

THAT HEAVY BRANCH FLOATING THERE --

"Desperately, I clutched the branch, waited until I saw the glitter in the beast's beady eyes as it sensed its imminent triumph!"

Then, when the foul, gaping mouth was but a few inches from my face..."

NOW! TRY THIS TOOTHPICK FOR SIZE -- AND I HOPE YOU CHOKE ON IT!

IT WORKED! BUT THAT THRASHING TAIL -- I'LL HAVE TO GET SUZY AWAY FROM IT!

"Then, moments later --"

I... I'M SORRY OH, WAYNE, WAYNE! -- I HAD TO HOLD YOU HOLD ME CLOSER! I DON'T IN MY ARMS! HATE YOU -- I'VE NEVER STOPPED LOVING YOU! HOW HARD IT WAS I--I JUST SAID THE THINGS I DID BECAUSE I DOUBTED YOUR LOVE! BUT WHEN I SAW YOU BATTLING FOR ME, ALMOST DYING FOR ME, I KNEW THEN HOW MUCH YOU REALLY CARED!

OH, SWEETHEART --
I LOVE
YOU!

"A strange story, reader, isn't it -- the tale of the true love we find in each other's arms! Yes, no one knows when love will strike -- or when someone will travel on that royal road
FROM RAGS TO ROMANCE!"

The END

THE Wishing WELL

MARcia COURTNEY had paid a weekly visit to the local wishing well ever since she was seventeen. Of course, she *didn't* have to ask for beauty, since she was already the most beautiful girl the town of Hartville had ever known. Wherever she went people stopped to stare at her and nudge one another, commenting on her loveliness.

By this time she was used to their stares, but what she could *not* get used to was the fact that she was *too* pretty. It was the strangest thing in the world the way the boys in town all seemed to be afraid of her, as if each of them felt that she was *too* beautiful for him, as if he could never be worthy of the loveliness that was hers.

And so, Marcia, the loveliest girl in town, was also the *loneliest!* When she had first blossomed out at the age of seventeen, and none of the boys dared to ask her for a date, the rumor soon went around that she was a snob, that she refused to go out with any of the local boys. And within a year, no one ever thought of asking her for a date!

Of course, the fact that she was the daughter of the town's only banker, and therefore the richest girl in town, didn't help things any. None of the boys felt that they were good enough for her, and people soon began to blame her snobbery on her wealth. Within a very short time, she became the most heartily disliked girl in town.

And so, week after week, Marcia paid her lonely visit to the wishing well on the outskirts of town, to ask not for beauty or wealth, which she already had, but for *love*, which she didn't!

Up until recently, she had always wished for "someone" who would love her—she'd never mentioned any name, because she'd never known whom *she* loved. But all that had changed with the coming of the young, handsome engineer, Jack Morris, who'd been hired by the town to repair its water system. It had been love at first sight on her part, and from the way he'd looked at her when they passed on the street, she felt in her heart that he'd fallen for her too.

And so now she was at the wishing well to ask for a specific man for the first time in her life. Leaning over and closing her eyes, she whispered: "I wish, I wish with all my heart that Jack Morris loves me—and marries me!"

And then, as if the well itself were answering, a hollow voice spoke up from within its depths: "*Your wish will be granted!*"

Startled, Marcia opened her eyes and looked down to see Jack himself climbing up out of the well!

When he saw the look of utter embarrassment on her face, he went to her and took her in his arms. "Don't blush, darling. I wasn't spying on you—I was just down there to see if there was any water in that old well. But I'm glad I heard what you wished for—because I . . . I guess I fell in love with you at first sight!"

And after he kissed her, he said, "There is water down there, but I won't let the town take it away from us for its water supply. We'll build our house out here—and it'll always be our own wishing well—where *all* our dreams will come true!"



"YES, MY HEART OVERFLOWED WITH JOY AS I LOOKED INTO THE EYES OF MY HUSBAND-TO-BE..."

HENRY, DARLING
---OH, I LOVE YOU SO!
HOW DO I LOOK?

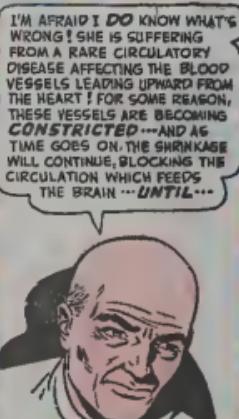
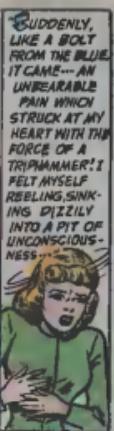
LIKE A DREAM!
YOU LOOK SO LOVELY I CAN'T RESIST---

...THIS!

OHHHH! I
...I FORGOT
WHERE WE
WERE!

WHY, YOU'RE
BLUSHING,
HONEY! FORGET
IT---AND GET INTO
YOUR STREET CLOTHES!
WE'VE GOT TO GET TO
THE JEWELER'S AND
PICK OUT THE
RING!





"**M**IS WORDS--THEY WERE A KHELL OF DOOM! WHERE WAS MY HAPPINESS--NOW? WHAT HAD HE LEFT ME?"

I... I'VE GOT TO KNOW ALL OF IT! EVERYTHING! HOW MUCH LONGER DO I HAVE TO--TO ... LIVE? TELL ME THE TRUTH, DOCTOR!

ONE YEAR!



"**E**T SEEMED LIKE SOB-WRACKED AGES LATER--BACK AT MY APARTMENT--"

IF ONLY THERE WAS **SOMETHING** THAT COULD BE DONE, BUT THE DOCTOR SAYS THERE ISN'T! THANK HEAVENS I'VE GOT **YOUR LOVE** TO BUOY ME UP AND CARRY ME THROUGH THIS HORRIBLE THING!--YOU--YOU'RE ALL THAT GIVES ME THE COURAGE TO FACE IT, HENRY!

WHY--UH--
YES! OF COURSE,
TRUDY!



"**W**HERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT THE TONE OF HIS VOICE--THE LOOK ON HIS FACE! NO--NO--IT COULDN'T BE! HE'D NEVER DESERT ME--NOT IN MY FATEFUL HOUR OF NEED!"

HENRY DARLING, WHY ARE YOU LOOKING SO STRANGELY? HOLD ME IN YOUR ARMS AGAIN--KISS ME--TELL ME THAT YOU LOVE ME, THAT YOU'LL BE AT MY SIDE UNTIL--THE END!

TILL
THE
END?
WHY...
UH...I
...I...



NOW... WHAT, HENRY?

WELL, NOW THE MARRIAGE PART IS OUT, OF COURSE! AND AS FOR STAYING AT YOUR SIDE UNTIL IT... IT HAPPENS--WHY, IT WOULD BE ALMOST LIKE STAYING WITH A CORPSE! HEAVEN HELP ME, TRUDY, I HAVEN'T GOT THE COURAGE TO FACE IT!

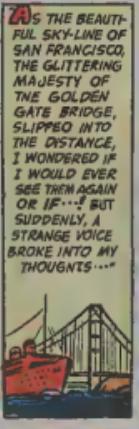


GET OUT!! GET OUT OF HERE! GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!



"**E**EN AN AGONY OF HYSTERIA, I SANK TO THE FLOOR. MY BODY RACKED WITH SOBS! ALL MY DREAMS--MY HOPES--MY LIFE ITSELF--WERE CRASHING AROUND ME!"







"AGAIN I HAD THAT STRANGE FEELING IN HIS PRESENCE... AS IF MY DISGUISE HAD SUDDENLY BEEN SNATCHED FROM ME, EXPOSING THE UGLY SECRET I HAD TRIED TO CONCEAL!"



"I WANTED TO RUN... TO HIDE! BUT SOMETHING STOPPED ME! PERHAPS IT WAS THAT GENTLE, UNDERSTANDING AIR OF HIS..."



"NEXT EVENING AFTER DINNER I HAD RETURNED TO MY CABIN... WHEN..."



"HE WAS BRASH, SELF-ASSURED, GAY... AND CHARMING! DANCING WITH HIM WAS LIKE FLOATING ON A CLOUD!"

WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU, TRUDY, IS YOUR ZEST FOR LIFE! YOU'RE NOT LIKE THESE OVERSTUFFED, OVER-RICH CHARACTERS RUNNING AROUND THE BALL-ROOM IN A MAD PURSUIT OF PLEASURE!... WHY, THEY'RE REALLY BORED WITH LIFE!



IT WAS A
NIGHT OF
ENCHANTMENT --
FOR ERIC'S
WINNING
PRESSENCE
HELPED ME
FORGET
THE AWFUL
SHADOW
WHICH
HUNG
OVER ME!
BUT
THEN --"

A TOAST TO YOU, TRUDY! MAY YOU HAVE
A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE AND...
WHAT'S WRONG, TRUDY? WHY DID
YOU TURN SO PALE?

I... I'M SUDENLY VERY TIRED! WILL YOU
...TAKE ME BACK TO MY STATE-ROOM?



"I CRIED MYSELF
TO SLEEP THAT
NIGHT--WEPT TEARS
FOR THE MIGHT-
HAVE-BEEN! BUT
THE NEXT MORNING
--THERE WAS ERIC
AGAIN, ACTING AS
IF NOTHING HAD
HAPPENED! WE
SAW MUCH OF
EACH OTHER FROM
THEN ON-- UNTIL
THAT LAST FATEFUL
NIGHT BEFORE WE
REACHED
HAWAII..."

TRUDY--THERE'S
SOMETHING-- I
MEAN, I'VE WANTED
TO--WELL, TELL
YOU SOMETHING!"

WHY-- OF
COURSE
ERIC, WHAT
IS IT?



"BEFORE I REALIZED WHAT HAD HAPPENED, ERIC
HAD PULLED ME TO HIM-- HIS LIPS CRUSHED MINE,
HIS ARMS HELD ME CLOSE TO HIS HEART! HIS EM-
BRACE SEEMED TO MELT THE COLD FINGERS
OF FEAR THAT HAD GRIPPED ME SO LONG-- BUT
I KNEW THAT I COULDNT AFFORD THE LUXURY
OF ROMANCE! AGAINST THE DICTATES OF MY
PULSING HEART, I KNEW THAT I MUST NOT
SEE ERIC AGAIN! I KNEW THAT I HAD
NO TIME FOR LOVE!"

OH, TRUDY DARLING, I'M SO GLAD I'VE
FOUND YOU--WE'LL HAVE A WONDER-
FUL TIME TOGETHER IN HAWAII! OH,
BY THE WAY, YOU DIDN'T SAY WHERE
YOU'D BE STOPPING
THERE--?"

I'LL BE AT
THE ... SILVER
CRESCENT HOTEL!

I MUSTN'T TELL HIM THAT
I'LL REALLY BE AT THE
ROYAL HAWAIIAN!
--THIS IS GOODBYE,
ERIC DEAR!

"IN HAWAII, I TRIED NOT TO ALLOW
MYSELF A MOMENT TO THINK! I
PLUNGED INTO A MAD WHIRL OF
ACTIVITY--DATED MANY MEN! BUT
IT WAS NO USE! THEY WEREN'T ERIC!"

GOSH, YOU'RE THE
PRETTIEST GIRL
I'VE EVER KNOWN!
HEY--YOU AREN'T
EVEN LISTENING!"



"ERIC--
ERIC--
HIS NAME
BEAT A
CONSTANT
REFRAIN IN
MY HEART!
WHERE WAS
HE-- WHAT
WAS HE DOING
NOW? HAD
HE ALREADY
FORGOTTEN
ME? THE
ANSWER
CAME IN A
STRANGE
PLACE--
AT
WAIKIKI--"

"OUCH! SOME-
THING'S GRABBED
MY FOOT!"





"MY HEART THROBBED WITH THE MAGIC AND ALLURE OF THIS ISLAND PARADISE! I SAW IT ALL--THRILLED TO IT..."



FORGET IT, TRUDY--AND LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS! THAT CRATER'S JUST MARKING TIME, AND THEN -- DEATH!



"OF ALL THE BEAUTIFUL SCENES IN HAWAII, THE MOST BREATH-TAKING WAS THE PALLI PASS, ARCHING HIGH OVER THE BLUE PACIFIC! SOMETHING ABOUT THE PLACE SUGGESTED LOVE, BUT THIS WASN'T FOR ME! WHY WAS MY BLOOD PULSING SO FIERCELY? I FELT ERIC'S ARM SLIP ABOUT ME -- WHY DIDN'T I STOP HIM?"



"OVER THE POUNDING OF MY HEART, I HEARD HIS WHISPERED WORDS--WORDS I CRAVED TO HEAR! BUT WORDS I KNEW I HAD NO RIGHT TO HEAR!"

OH, TRUDY DARLING
...I LOVE YOU!
I WANT TO...
MARRY YOU!

NO! NO!
YOU MUSTN'T
SAY THAT!
PLEASE, ERIC,
TAKE ME HOME
...NOW!

"THAT NIGHT I MADE MY FATEFUL,
SOUL-SEARING DECISION--AND
NEXT DAY..."

THIS IS GOODBYE--I
CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS! I
KNOW IT WILL HURT YOU, BUT
I MUST TELL YOU--I'M SUFFER-
ING FROM AN INCURABLE DISEASE
WHICH WILL KILL ME WITHIN A
YEAR! BUT I DON'T WANT YOU
TO SUFFER NEEDLESSLY--SO
PLEASE TRY TO FORGET ME!

AND THERE'S
NO USE TRYING
TO FIND ME!

FRANTIC AND DISTRAUGHT, ERIC
BREWSTER SEARCHED FOR TRUDY
EVERWHERE--FRUITLESSLY!

I'VE GOT TO FIND HER! HEAVEN
KNOWS WHAT SHE COULD DO--
IN HER STATE OF MIND! -- SAY
... ALL THAT COMMOTION! I
... I WONDER WHAT'S UP?



WHAT IS IT
--WHAT'S THE
TROUBLE?

IT'S THE MOANA LUA
---SHE MAKE BIG NOISE
---SOON EXPLODE! ---
WE RUN AWAY...
QUICK!

THE MOANA LUA...
OF COURSE! THAT'S
WHERE SHE IS! I'VE GOT
TO GET THERE--IN
TIME!

IF EVER A CRISIS
COMES IN MY LIFE,
I'D LIKE TO BE...
HERE!



AND SO,
WITH FRANTIC
HASTE,
ERIC
SPEEDS
TOWARDS
THE DREAD
CRATER!
HALFWAY
UP THE
PEAK, HE SPIES---

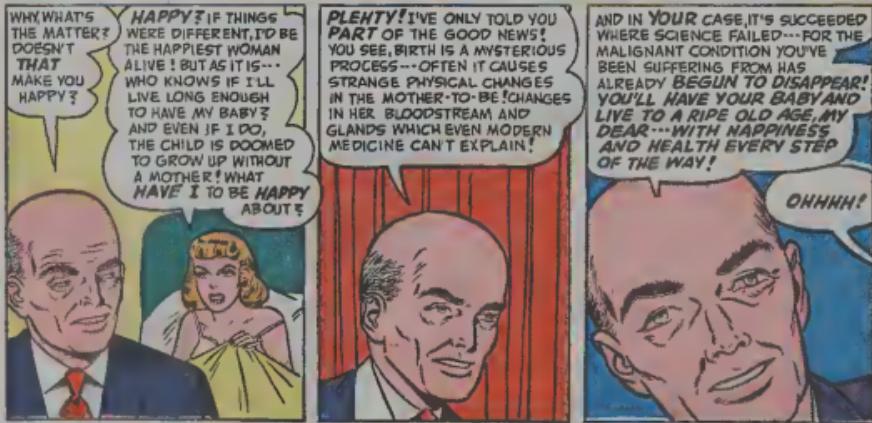
TRUDY! TRUDY!
COME BACK,
TRUDY!

IT'S NO USE-- SHE CAN'T
HEAR ME! AND I CAN'T
REACH HER-- THAT WALL OF
MOLTEN LAVA HAS CUT HER
OFF! SHE'S STILL GOT A
LONG CLIMB TO THE TOP
---BUT HOW CAN I
SAVE HER?

THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE--A LONG
SHOT--I'VE GOT TO GET TO A PHONE
QUICKLY! MAYBE ONE OF THOSE
EVACUATED HOMES NEAR THE
VOLCANO!







Embraceable Enemy



"MOONLIGHT - and MURDER! A strange combination, you might think - but it wasn't so strange in the hills I come from, where love sometimes went hand in hand with the bitter blood feuds which were traditional! This was the grim setting in which I, Lucy Turner, was raised! Small wonder, then, that gun-shots frequently interrupted my dreams -- dreams of LOVE!"

"I'D NEVER THOUGHT MUCH OF ROMANCE! HOW COULD I, AMONG SCENES LIKE THIS?"

QUICK, DOUSE THE LIGHT! THEM HOUNDS ARE BAYIN' AT SOMEONE PROWLIN' AROUND.
THE KELLEYS MAY BE OUT THERE!"

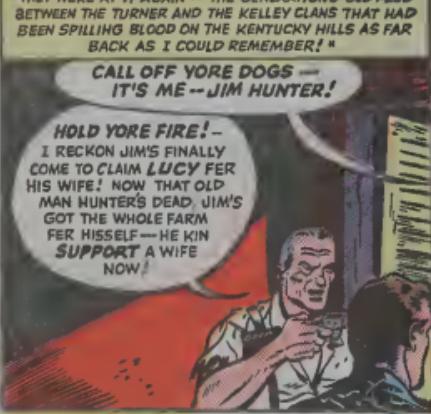
I'LL GIT
THE GUNS!"

AOUUUUUU!
ARR-RAOOUU!

"THEY WERE AT IT AGAIN -- THE GENERATIONS-OLD FEUD BETWEEN THE TURNER AND THE KELLEY CLANS THAT HAD BEEN SPILLING BLOOD ON THE KENTUCKY HILLS AS FAR BACK AS I COULD REMEMBER!"

CALL OFF YORE DOGS --
IT'S ME -- JIM HUNTER!"

HOLD YORE FIRE! -
I RECKON JIM'S FINALLY
COME TO CLAIM LUCY FER
HIS WIFE! NOW THAT OLD
MAN HUNTER'S DEAD, JIM'S
GOT THE WHOLE FARM
FER HIMSELF -- HE KIN
SUPPORT A WIFE
NOW!"



"JIM TURNER --- THE NAME HAD ALWAYS SENT A SHIVER OF ANTICIPATION THROUGH ME, EVER SINCE I WAS OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT JIM AND I HAD BEEN BETROTHED IN INFANCY BY OUR FAMILIES! I WAS SHY, FRIGHTENED, AS I LOOKED AT THE MAN WHO WAS TO BE MY ---HUSBAND!"

WELL, LUCY, YUH READY TO MAKE THE TRIP TO THE PARSON? I BEEN WAITIN' A LONG TIME TILL I COULD GET THE FARM, SO YUH WOULDN'T MARRY A NO-ACCOUNT!

I... I GUESS I'M READY... JIM!

WHY DON'T YUH ASK HER IF SHE WANTS TO MARRY YUH? I DON'T SET MUCH STORE ON TELLIN' A GAL WHO SHE HAS TO MARRY!

SHUT UP, GEORGE! SURE LUCY WANTS TO MARRY HIM --- AINT HE THE SON O' THE BEST FRIEND I EVER HAD? --- BUT SAY, JIM, INSTEAD O' RUSHIN' TO THE PARSON, HOW ABOUT STAYIN' HERE A WEEK OR TWO? I HEAR TELL YUH'RE A MIGHTY FINE SHOT -- WE KIN USE YUH IN OUR FEUD WITH THEM KELLEY DOGS!

I'D BE GLAD TO GET IN SOME SHOOTIN', SEEIN' AS THEYLL BE MY ENEMIES TOO WHEN I MARRY INTO THE TURNERS!

"HIS WORDS FILLED ME WITH A COLD, FOREBODING FEAR! MY HEART POUNDING AT HIS CLOSENESS, I TRIED TO WORK UP ENOUGH COURAGE TO TELL HIM HOW I HATED THIS WARFARE --"

LUCY, YUH'RE THE PRETTIEST BRIDE A MAN COULD EVER ASK FOR!

JIM, I... I NEVER DARED TALK THIS WAY TO MY FAMILY -- BUT MAYBE YOU CAN HELP STOP THIS SENSELESS FEUD! YOU... YOU MIGHT EVEN BE KILLED -- JUST LIKE MY TWO OLDER BROTHERS AND MY MOTHER! THERE'S NO SENSE TO ALL THIS KILLING -- THERE'S NO END TO IT!

BUT YUH'RE A KENTUCKY GAL, LUCY -- FEUDIN' IS IN OUR BLOOD! THE KELLEYS ARE YORE ENEMIES... AN THEY'RE GONNA BE MINE HOW, TOO! HOW CAN YUH EVEN TALK THAT WAY?

BECAUSE I AM A KENTUCKY GIRL -- BECAUSE I LOVE THIS LAND, THESE HILLS! THAT'S WHY I WANT TO END THE FIGHTING -- SO THAT THERE'LL BE SOMEONE LEFT ALIVE ON THE LAND!

DON'T YOU SEE, JIM? I COULDN'T BEAR TO HAVE THE REST OF MY FAMILY -- AHO YOU... SHOT DOWN! IT'S GOT TO STOP -- IT'S GOT TO!

WE'RE NOT GONNA GET KILLED ... THE KELLEYS ARE! YUH'RE GETTIN' ALL EXCITED ABOUT NOTHIN' -- HERE, MEBBE THIS'LL SETTLE YUH DOWN!

"IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D EVER BEEN KISSED! A STRANGE, WARM FIRE SPREAD THROUGH MY BLOOD, SET MY HEART TO BEATING WILDLY -- LONGLINGLY! IT COULD ONLY MEAN ONE THING --- THIS WAS LOVE!"

ON, JIM... DARLING!

"I FORGOT MY FEARS -- FORGOT EVERYTHING BUT HIS STRONG, CHERISHED NEARNESS! HE WAS MY MAN, MY KINO--AND WHAT EVER HE BELIEVED, I BELIEVED!"

SWEETHEART, LET'S FORGET ABOUT THE FEUD! THE ONLY THING THAT'S IMPORTANT NOW IS THAT -- WE'RE TOGETHER!



"DAYS OF ENCHANTMENT FOLLOWED-- DAYS FILLED WITH HAPPY PRERARRATIONS FOR MY WEDDING! AND THEN, WHILE I WAS PICKING BERRIES -- IT HAPPENED!"

THAT -- THAT MUST BE A KELLEY! I... I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY BEFORE HE SEES ME!

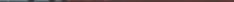


"IT WAS A KELLEY -- BUT IT WAS ADAM KELLEY, THE CHILDHOOD FRIEND WHOM I USED TO MEET IN SECRET --- BEFORE EITHER OF US EVER UNDERSTOOD THE MEANING OF 'FEUD'! FOND MEMORIES OF THE JOYFUL HOURS WE'D SPENT PLAYING TOGETHER SWEPT OVER ME -- UNTIL I FORCIBLY REMINDED MYSELF THAT HE WAS STILL A KELLEY!"

IT... IT'S REALLY YOU, ADAM! I... I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN YEARS! ARE YOU OUT HERE HUNTING -- TURNERS?



HARDLY, LUCY --- HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN SO SOON HOW WE BOTH USED TO LAUGH AT OUR FAMILIES -- HOW WE USED TO FOOL THEM WITH ALL OUR SECRET MEETINGS? WELL, HOW THAT I'M BACK FROM AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, I'VE STOPPED LAUGHING AT THE FEUD -- AND STARTED HATING IT!



I... I GUESS WE HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON THEN -- BECAUSE I HATE THIS STUPID KILLING, TOO!



I KNEW YOU WOULD! HOW ABOUT SEEING WHAT ELSE WE HAVE IN COMMON -- BY MEETING ME IN THE OLD HOLLOW THIS AFTERNOON, THE WAY WE USED TO?

"I PROMISED TO ANOTHER, I WANTED TO REFUSE -- BUT I COULDN'T FORGET THAT OLD CHILDHOOD BOND BETWEEN US! AND NOW THERE WAS SOMETHING NEW -- AN ALLURE, A FASCINATION WHICH DREW ME IRRESISTIBLY TOWARD MEETING HIM, EVERY HOUR I COULD POSSIBLY STEAL AWAY!"



"BUT MY FREQUENT ABSENCES SOON BEGAN TO AROUSE SUSPICIONS ---"

WHERE YUH OFF TO THIS TIME, LUCY? SEEMS TO ME YUH'RE ALWAYS OFF PICKIN' STRAWBERRIES SOMEWHERE, AH! YET YUH NEVER COME BACK WITH ANY!





"A STRANGE DESOLATION FILLED MY HEART AT THE PROSPECT OF NEVER SEEING ADAM AGAIN! BUT I KNEW I'D HAVE TO MAKE THE BREAK--BECAUSE IF THEY EVER FOUND OUT, THEY'D KILL HIM, TEAR HIM TO PIECES!"



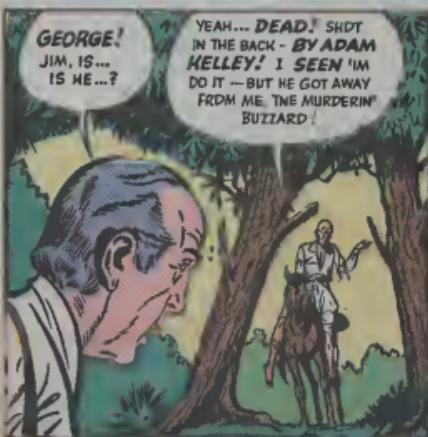
"I COULDN'T STOP HIM -- I DIDN'T WANT TO! IT WAS A MAGIC ALLURE WHICH MADE MY SENSES REEL! I FELT HIS BURNING KISSES -- AND KNEW THAT JIM HAD VANISHED FROM MY HEART FOREVER! THIS WAS ADAM, ADAM -- THIS WAS TRUE LOVE!"





ALL RIGHT - STAY HERE AND ROT IN THESE GOD-FORSAKEN HILLS! I'M THROUGH WITH THEM - AND WITH ANYONE WHO BELONGS TO THEM! I'M GLAD I FOUND OUT YOU'RE JUST A HILLBILLY AT HEART -- BEFORE I MADE THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF MY LIFE BY MARRYING YOU!

"BITTER TEARS OF ANGUISH RAN UNCHECKED DOWN MY FACE AS I FLED! HOW COULD I HAVE REALLY LOVED SOMEONE WHO COULD SPEAK SUCH WORDS TO ME -- WHO HATED EVERYTHING I CARED FOR?"



YEAH... DEAD! SHOT
IN THE BACK - BY ADAM
KELLEY! I SEEN 'IM
DO IT -- BUT HE GOT AWAY
FROM ME. THE MURDERIN'
BUZZARD!



"A FEELING OF UTTER HORROR SWEEPED OVER ME AT THE THOUGHT OF A MAN WHO COULD SO COLD-BLOODEDLY MURDER SOMEONE SO CLOSE TO ME AS MY OWN BROTHER! AND THEN THE HORROR CHANGED TO ANGER, TO A BURNING RAGE!"

NOT ONLY DON'T I LOVE HIM, I HATE HIM! I HATE HIM — I'LL SHOOT HIM IF I CAN!

"AN HOUR LATER..."

IT'S THE TURNERS! JEWEL ... GET BACK HERE ... QUICK!

BANG! BANG!

HERE'S WHERE WE GIT OUR FIRST TASTE O' REVENGE! SHE'S A PERFECT TARGET!

BANG!

THEY ... THEY SHOT HER DOWN! I'LL GET THEM FOR THAT — EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM! THIS IS MY FEUD NOW — THEY'RE MY ENEMIES NOW, TOO!

"BY THE TIME I MADE MY WAY TO THE KELLEY FARM, HEART STILL HOT WITH RAGE, I FOUND THAT BOTH SIDES HAD ENTRENCHED THEMSELVES! THIS WAS MY PLACE — AT THE SIDE OF MY KINFOLK, BATTLING AGAINST HATED ENEMIES — INCLUDING THE MOST DESPISED OF THEM ALL, HE WHO HAD SO FALSELY LAID SIEGE TO MY HEART!"

SO, YUH DECIDED TO JOIN IN, EH? I KINDA FIGGERED YUH'D CHANGE YORE MIND ABOUT THE FEUD — AN' ABOUT THE KELLEYS!

YOU — YOU WERE RIGHT, JIM! BUT THIS ISN'T ANY TIME FOR TALK! I'M GOING TO LET MY GUN SPEAK FOR ME!

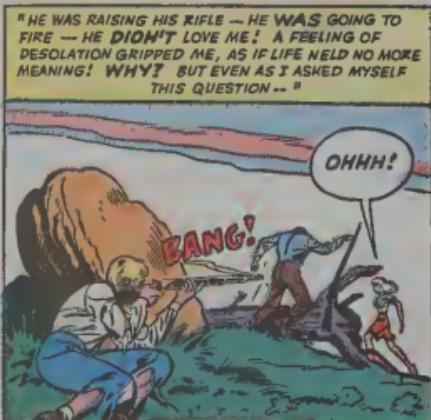
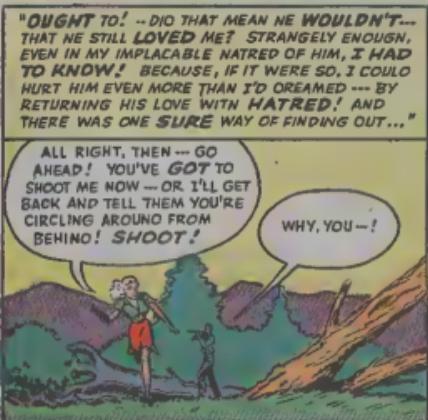
BANG!

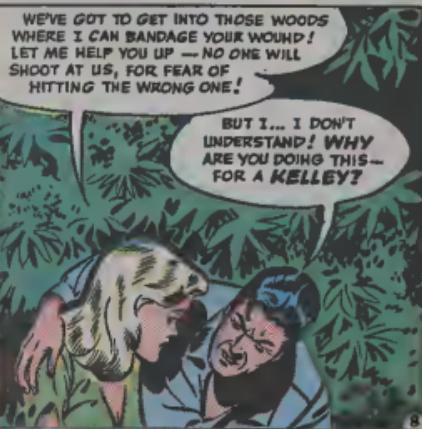
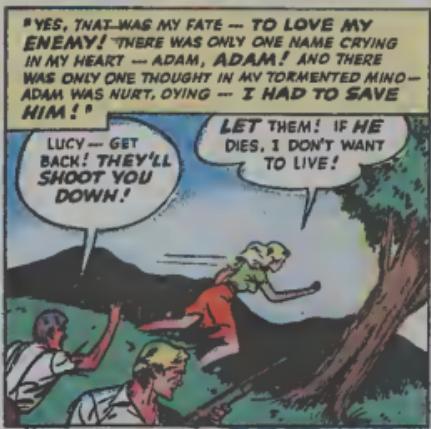
WE'RE OUTNUMBERED! WE'LL HAVE TO TRY NABBING THEM FROM THE REAR! I'LL GO OUT AHEAD AND SCOUT; THE REST OF YOU CIRCLE AROUND THEIR LINES IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES — EXCEPT FOR TWO OF YOU WHO'LL STAY HERE AND KEEP FIRING SO THEY DON'T GET SUSPICIOUS!

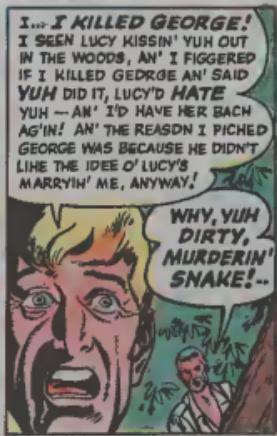
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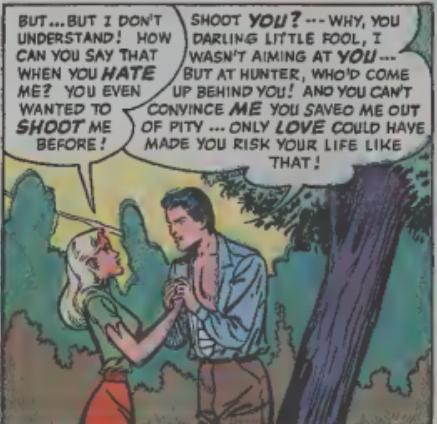
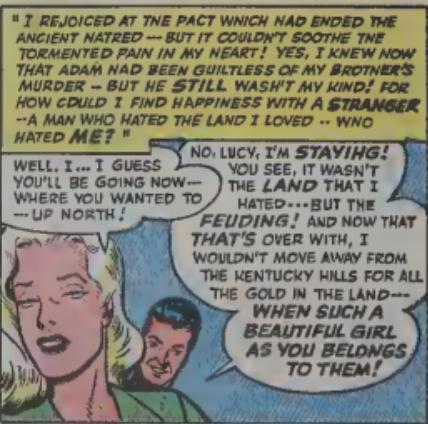
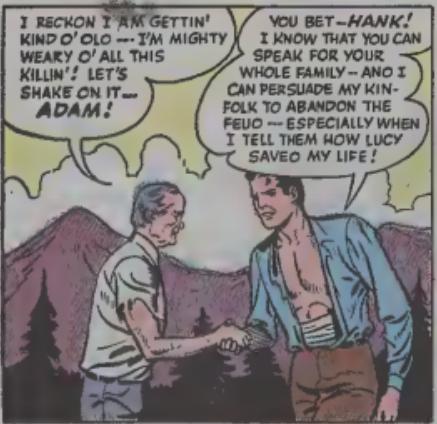
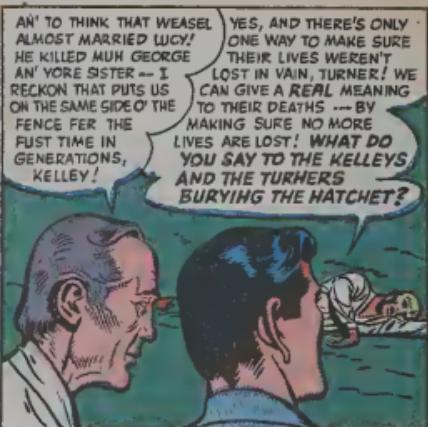
WE NEED MORE BULLETS! LUCY, GO BACK TO THE HOUSE AN' GET SOME ... I CAN'T SPARE A MAN! BUT BE CAREFUL — SOME OF THE KELLEYS MAY BE OUT IN THE WOODS!

THAT'S THEIR WORRY — BECAUSE I'LL DOWN ANY OF 'EM I MEET!









HOW HE PROPOSED

THE GREATEST THRILL IN A GIRL'S LIFE IS THE MOMENT WHEN THE MAN SHE'S IN LOVE WITH ASKS HER TO MARRY HIM! YET A GREAT DEAL DEPENDS ON JUST HOW THE QUESTION IS POPPED, FOR A MAN IS JUDGED BY THE CRUDITY OR ENCHANTMENT OF HIS PROPOSAL; AND HERE, IN HER OWN WORDS, IS HOW HE PROPOSED--TO AGNES WALKER, OF SAN DIEGO!

JERRY WAS THE BOY NEXT DOOR... AND IT SEEMED AS IF I'D ALWAYS BEEN IN LOVE WITH HIM! BUT HE WAS THE SHY TYPE--AND I BEGAN TO DESPAIR OF EVER HAVING HIM PROPOSE TO ME!



WHEN HIS SISTER AND MY BROTHER BECAME ENGAGED, I THOUGHT AT LAST I'D HAVE A CHANCE TO GET HIM TO TALKING ABOUT WEDDINGS AND MARRIAGES, ABOUT HOW HAPPY TWO PEOPLE COULD BE TOGETHER! BUT WHENEVER I BROUGHT THE SUBJECT UP--

AREN'T YOU JUST THRILLED? YEAH, SURE, SURE!... COME ON LET'S GO SEE WHAT THE REST OF THE CROWD IS DOING, TODAY!



THEN, AT THE WEDDING CEREMONY, IN WHICH JERRY WAS BEST MAN AND I WAS MAID OF HONOR--

SHE--SHE'S LOVELY! --I WONDER IF I'LL HAVE ENOUGH NERVE TO PULL THIS STUNT OFF--BUT AT LEAST I'VE GOT EVERYTHING I NEED--A MARRIAGE LICENSE ALREADY FILLED OUT, TWO RINGS--

THE RING, YOU BABOON--THE RING! DON'T YOU HAVE IT?

TAKE IT BABY, OLD MAN--NOT ONLY DO I HAVE YOUR RING, BUT I'VE ALSO GOT--



ONE FOR YOU, DARLING! THEY DON'T HAVE A MONOPOLY ON MARRIAGE, DO THEY, SWEETS? HOW ABOUT MAKING IT A DOUBLE WEDDING?

OH, YES, DEAREST
--YES!



THAT'S HOW JERRY PROPOSED TO AGNES, READER--AND WHENEVER YOUR TURN COMES, WRITE AND TELL US HOW HE PROPOSED, WON'T YOU?

Romance WRITER

THIS was the first love story Edith Thompson had ever written. Up till now, she had been a specialist in the tough, hard-boiled type of detective yarn, where every character was grim, heartless, unyielding. And Philip Saunders, editor of the string of magazines for which she wrote, had bought every one of them—and asked for more of the same.

But this one she'd just finished could hardly be said to be like the others. As a matter of fact, it was at the entirely opposite pole, full of the warmth and tenderness of first love, a story into which she'd put all her own yearnings—for the editor who would read it. Yes, there was no doubt about it—she was deeply, hopelessly in love with Philio Saunders!

But he thought of her only as his top crime-story writer, with a heart as hard and callous as those of the private dicks and gun molls who slouched across the pages of her stories. Whenever he'd finish reading a story she'd just brought in, he'd look up and say, "Sister, you write as if you know these yeggs inside out—as if you're one of them *yourself!*"

And somehow, Edith felt that if he could only see the other side of her, the real Edith, he'd know that she was simply a lovesick girl, with a heart full of tenderness, longing for romance. But there was

no way of letting him know that. All she could do was satisfy *herself* in this story—prove to herself the emotions that lay buried deep within her throbbing heart by transmitting them to paper. Philip would never know that it was *her* love laid stark before him. He'd laugh, tell her to go back to what she knew, crime-writing. That was what she feared when she placed her story in his hands.

There was silence as Philip Saunders took the story, read. And when he finally looked up from it, there was an expression of bewitched amazement in his eyes.

"Edith," he said—and the name fell lovingly from his lips. "The heroine in this story—the girl who's in love—it's you, isn't it?"

"Y... yes, I guess it is," Edith stammered out.

"And the hero—the man you're in love with—his description fits me to a T!" Philip continued. "Is . . . is this *only* a story, or did you *mean* it?"

The starkly yearning love shining out of Edith's eyes was all the answer he needed. A moment later he was holding her in his arms, his lips against hers, murmuring, "Oh, darling . . . I'd given up hope of ever finding out you were capable of love and tenderness—but now I know. Your love story had a happy ending—and so will ours!"

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933 AND JULY 2, 1946

OF ROMANTIC ADVENTURES, published bi-monthly at New York,
N. Y., for October 1, 1949 State of New York, County of New
York, as

Before me, a Notary Public in for the State and County aforesaid,
personally appeared Richard E. Hughes, who, having been duly sworn
according to law, deposes and says that he is the Estate of
CHARLES L. WENDELL JR., deceased, and that he is, to the
best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the facts
management (and if a daily), weekly, monthly or otherwise newspaper
(or circulation), of the Standard-Examiner, for the date
shown in the accompanying affidavit, the 1st of August 23, 1919,
as revealed by the acts of March 2, 1903, and July 2, 1910 (section 587,
General Law and Regulations), printed on the reverse of this form, to
be true.

The names and addresses of the Publisher, Editor, Managing Editor and Business Manager are: Publisher, B. & I. Publishing Co., Inc., 145 West 45th Street, New York, N. Y.; Editor, Richard E. Hughes, 120 W. 183rd St., New York, N. Y.; Managing Editor, none; Business Manager, Frederick H. Iggo, 50 Beverly Road, Great Neck, L.I., L.I.

2 That the owner is, B. & L. Publishing Co., Inc., 45 West 45th Street, New York, N. Y.; B. W. Samoy, 7 West 51st Street, New York, N. Y.; Frankfort, Illinois 60137, formerly Woodlawn, New York, N. Y.

3 That the known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders naming or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the stockholders and security holders, in so far as it is possible, not only list the stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholders or security holders appear upon the books of the company as trustees or by whom such trusts are created, is given also; that the two paragraphs contain statements embracing all the full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders hold their stock and securities and as to the nature of their respective powers, rights and responsibilities in a capacity other than that of bona fide owner, and that this affidavit has no reason to believe that any other person, association or corporation has an interest, direct or indirect, in the subject matter of this affidavit, except as stated by him.

Born in and resided before me this 23rd day of September, 1949.
Nat C. Sherman, Notary Public, Commission expires May 20, 1952.

ROMANCE in a TRANCE



EVER BEEN HYPNOTIZED, READER... INTO FALLING IN LOVE? NO WELL, IF YOU THINK YOU'VE MISSED SOMETHING, READ THE STORY OF WEALTHY FRANCINE VAN RHYNS... AND THE HYPNOTIC SPELL WOVEN AROUND HER BY THE MAGNETIC, MASTERFUL MANFRED! READ OF A NEW KIND OF ROMANCE---DEADLY, DANGEROUS---AND OF ITS AMAZING AFTERMATH!

"DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD, READER---TO BE THE MOST POPULAR, SOUGHT-AFTER DEBUTANTE OF THE NEW YORK SOCIAL SEASON? WELL, I KNEW!"

ALL RIGHT,
JACK ---
I'M
CUTTING
IN!

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN, YOU'RE
CUTTING IN?
---I'VE BEEN
TRYING TO GET
A DANCE WITH
FRANCINE ALL
EVENING!

FORGET IT,
SQUARES!
FRANCINE
STAYS
WITH
ME!

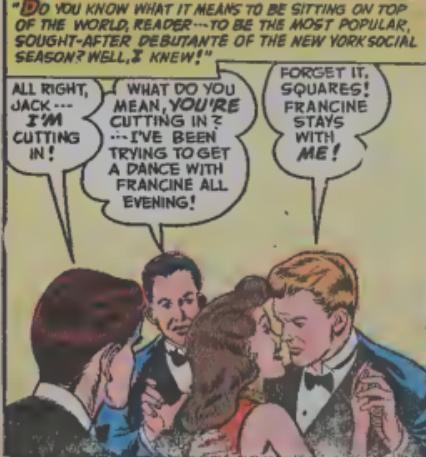
"YES, I EXULTED IN MY POPULARITY---UNTIL I OVERHEARD THE FATEFUL WORDS THAT RIPPED MY EXULTANT HEART TO SHREDS!"

STAY AWAY FROM
FRANCINE! ALL
YOU'RE INTERESTED
IN IS HER MONEY!

WHAT ABOUT YOU?
DON'T TELL ME YOU
AREN'T ITCHING FOR
THOSE MILLIONS!

LOOK, WHY DON'T WE ALL
ADMIT WE WANT TO MARRY
HER FOR HER MONEY?
MAY THE SMOOTHEST
TALKER WIN!

OHHH!



"**I** COULDN'T CONTAIN MYSELF ANY LONGER! A BITTER, BURNING RAGE BROUGHT ME FORWARD..."

GULP!
IT...IT'S
HER!

YOU...YOU LOATH-SOME VULTURES!
THANK HEAVENS I FOUND YOU OUT IN TIME. I HATE YOU--I HATE ALL OF YOU!

"**U**NABLE TO HOLD BACK MY TEARS, I FLED TO THE TERRACE! AND THERE, ALONE WITH MY PAIN AND HUMILIATION, I WEPT MY HEART OUT!"

"...I WAS NEVER REALLY POPULAR--MY MONEY WAS POPULAR! THE LYING HYPOCRITES--THEY ALL SMORE THEY LOVED ME! I...I'LL NEVER TRUST ANOTHER MAN FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!"

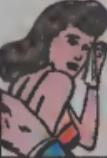
THEY...
THEY'RE ALL
HATEFUL...
NOT ALL
OF THEM!
IF YOU'LL
DRY YOUR
EYES AND TURN
AROUND YOU'LL
SEE ONE MAN
WHO ISN'T!

WHA--?
WHO ARE
YOU?

THE NAME'S RAYMOND KEENAN! I OVERHEARD THAT LITTLE SET-TO INSIDE...AND I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL! BUT YOU'RE WRONG IN THINKING ALL MEN ARE LIKE THOSE ZOMBIES! LOOK, WE'RE GOING BACK AND DANCE--AND SINCE MY FIRST GLIMPSE OF YOU SWEEP ME CLEAN OFF MY FEET, I WON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER!

ANOTHER SMOOTH TALKER! BUT IT WON'T GET YOU ANYPLACE EITHER! LET ME GO, PLEASE--I DON'T CARE TO EVEN DANCE WITH YOU!

SISTER, I'VE GOT YOU FOR EVERY DANCE FROM HERE ON IN--EVEN IF I HAVE TO USE BLACKMAIL TO DO IT! THAT'S POLLY WALKER, THE GOSSIP COLUMNIST, BACK THERE--AND IF I CAN'T STAY WITH THE GAL THAT'S GOT MY HEART BUMPING, I'LL START A SCENE THAT'LL HAVE YOUR NAME PLASTERED ALL OVER THE PAPERS TOMORROW!



"**I** HAD NO CHOICE! SEETHING WITH RAGE, I SURRENDERED TO HIS ARMS! TO MY SURPRISE--IT WASN'T AS DISTASTEFUL AS I'D THOUGHT!"

HE'S GRACEFUL--IT--IT'S ALMOST THRILLING TO DANCE WITH HIM! THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HIM--HE IS NICE--NO, HE'S JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS--A FORTUNE HUNTER! HE KNOWS WHO I AM--KNOWS I'M RICH--THAT'S WHY HE'S AFTER ME!



"**T**UBORNLY, RAYMOND KEENAN INSISTED ON DRIVING ME HOME! THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIM--A GAY, WINNING PRESENCE I COULDN'T RESIST! I FOUND MY ANTAGONISM VANISHING, BEING REPLACED BY AN ATTRACTION I KNEW I MUST WITHSTAND!"

BUT FRANCINE, I'VE JUST GOT TO SEE YOU AGAIN! I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY ABOUT ANY OTHER GIRL--!

I'M SURE YOU HAVEN'T--THE OTHERS PROBABLY WEREN'T RICH ENOUGH! GOOD NIGHT, MR. KEENAN--I SUGGEST YOU TRY PROSPECTING FOR GOLD ELSEWHERE!



"BUT IT WASN'T AS EASY TO BRUSH HIM OFF AS I'D THOUGHT! PERHAPS MONEY MEANT MORE TO HIM THAN TO THE OTHERS---BECAUSE NOTHING HALTED HIS PERSISTENT PHONE CALLS AND APPEARANCES! FINALLY---"

THAT YOUNG MAN WAS JUST HERE AGAIN, MISS FRANCINE! I TOLD HIM WHAT YOU'D SAID---THAT YOU'D NOTIFY THE POLICE IF HE ANNOYED YOU AGAIN!

THANK YOU, PARKER! I'M SURE THAT'S THE LAST OF HIM!

YOU WOULDN'T BE SO SURE---IF YOU KNEW HOW MUCH I HAD TO SEE YOU---HEAR YOUR VOICE AGAIN!

YOU!

"THIS WAS TOO MUCH! FURIOUS, I DETERMINED TO PUT A STOP TO THIS INSOLENCE ONCE AND FOR ALL!"

PLEASE LISTEN TO ME, FRANCINE! IT'S BEEN TORTURE NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE YOU! YOU MIGHT AS WELL KNOW---I FELL MADLY IN LOVE WITH YOU THE MOMENT I SAW YOU!

YOU MEAN YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH MY MONEY! THIS TIME, YOU'RE GOING TO LEARN TO DO WITHOUT IT---IN JAIL! ---PARKER! RODGERS!

GOT HIM, MISS FRANCINE!

FRANCINE, LISTEN TO ME---

CALL THE POLICE PARKER---TELL THEM WE'VE CAUGHT A BURGLAR!

Bater...

MISS VAN RHYS, I'M SURE THERE'S BEEN SOME MISTAKE! I CAN'T BOOK THAT KEENAN BOY ON A CHARGE OF BURGLARY... BECAUSE THE SON OF J. F. KEENAN, THE GREAT TEXAS OIL MILLIONAIRE, COULDN'T BE A BURGLAR!

OH! I---I NEVER DREAMED HE---PLEASE DROP ALL CHARGES SERGEANT!

"THE REVELATION CAME AS A STAGGERING SHOCK TO ME---BUT HARDLY AS STAGGERING AS THE NEXT THOUGHT THAT HIT ME LIKE A PILE-DRIVER, SENT MY HEART SOARING TO THE SKIES!"

IF---HE'S THAT RICH, HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN AFTER MY MONEY! IT'S ME HE CARES FOR---HE REALLY LOVES ME! AND I---I MIGHT AS WELL ADMIT IT TO MYSELF---I THINK I'VE FALLEN FOR HIM! THAT'S WHY I WAS SO HARSH WITH HIM---BECAUSE I DIDN'T TRUST MY HEART EVEN WHEN I THOUGHT HE WAS A FORTUNE HUNTER! BUT NOW THAT I KNOW HE ISN'T---?

"I KNEW HE'D BE BACK---BUT MY HUNGRY HEART LEAPED AT THE SIGHT OF HIM!"

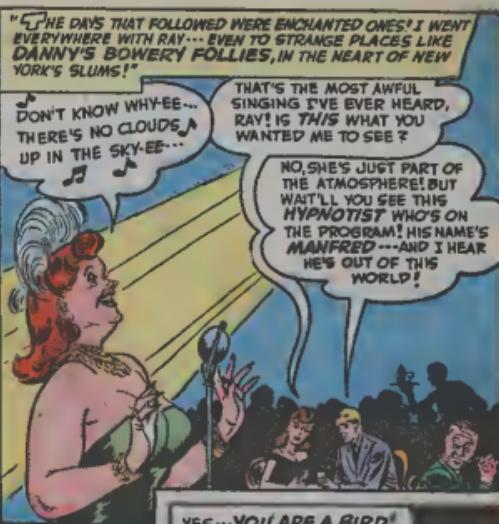
I---I BROUGHT YOU A PEACE OFFERING, FRAN---IF YOU'LL TAKE IT FROM A JAILBIRD! I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU NAD ME RELEASED---BUT IT STOPPED ME FROM BREAKING OUT TO SEE YOU!

I---I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU, RAY---BLIND TO MY OWN FEELINGS!



FRANCINE...
SWEETHEART...

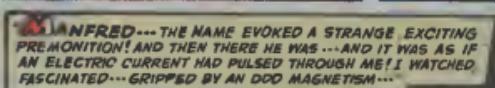
OH...
RAY...



DON'T KNOW WHY-EE...
THERE'S NO CLOUDS
UP IN THE SKY-EE...

THAT'S THE MOST AWFUL
SINGING I'VE EVER HEARD,
RAY! IS THIS WHAT YOU
WANTED ME TO SEE?

NO, SHE'S JUST PART OF
THE ATMOSPHERE! BUT
WAIT! LL YOU SEE THIS
HYPNOTIST WHO'S ON
THE PROGRAM? HIS NAME'S
MANFRED---AND I HEAR
HE'S OUT OF THIS
WORLD!



LOOK DEEPLY INTO MY EYES... DEEPLY!
YOUR WILL POWER IS DRAINING AWAY
...I HAVE BECOME YOUR MASTER...
OBEY ME! NOW YOU ARE NO
LONGER A MAN---BUT A BIRD!

YES...YES
...A BIRD...

YES...YOU ARE A BIRD!
YOU WANT TO FLAP YOUR
WINGS, FLY AWAY!

HAW! HAW!
WOW...WHAT
A HYPNOTIST!



AN HERE'S SOMEONE
WHO MIGHT BE A GOOD
SUBJECT---THIS LOVELY
YOUNG LADY! WON'T
YOU COME UP?
PLEASE?

ME? I... I DON'T
KNOW--YES! I--
I'LL COME UP!

FRAN!

"I DIDN'T WANT TO GO UP, BUT SOME STRANGE, COMPELLING FORCE STRONGER THAN MYSELF MADE ME BRUSH RAY'S HAND ASIDE! AND A MOMENT LATER, I FOUND MYSELF ON THE STAGE, GAZING INTO THOSE BLACK POOLS OF STRANGE FIRE THAT WERE HIS EYES, BEING DRAWN DEEPER INTO THOSE DEPTHS---DEEPER---BECOMING LOST IN THEM---LOST... LOST..."



YOU... YOU...
ARE MY...
MASTER--!

"**I TRIED FIGHTING AGAINST THE OVERRIDING FORCE THAT SEEMED TO EMANATE FROM HIS BLAZING EYES, LEAVING ME DRAINED OF ALL WILL POWER---WEAK---HELPLESS! BUT SUDDENLY, I DIDN'T WANT TO FIGHT ANY LONGER! I FELT CONSCIOUSNESS DROPPING AWAY...WITH ONLY A VOICE HAMMERING AWAY AT ME FROM A GREAT DISTANCE!"**



"**A SHARP SNAP PENETRATED THROUGH THE HAZE SURROUNDING ME---AND I SUDDENLY FOUND MYSELF AWAKE AGAIN, BACK TO REALITY---AND FILLED WITH AN OVERRWHELMING LOVE FOR THIS STRANGER WHO STOOD BEFORE ME!"**



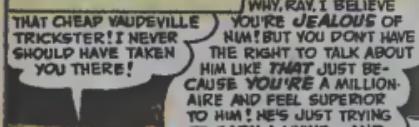
"**I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THE ALL-COMPELLING FORCE WHICH DREW ME MAGNETICALLY TOWARD HIM! ALL I KNEW WAS THAT SUDDENLY, MY ARMS WERE ABOUT HIM! MY LIPS TOUCHED HIS---AND AN UNCONTROLLABLE FIRE SWEPT ME FROM HEAD TO TOE!"**



"**A BURST OF RAUCOUS LAUGHTER FROM THE AUDIENCE BROUGHT ME TO MYSELF---TO BURNING SHAME AS I REALIZED THIS HAD BEEN HYPNOSIS!**



"**BUT MINUTES LATER, THE SHAME HAD FADED AWAY TO NOTHINGNESS BEFORE THE BURNING MEMORY OF THAT KISS! I FOUGHT AGAINST IT---BUT I COULDN'T HELP RELIVING THAT ECSTATIC MOMENT IN MANFRED'S ARMS!"**



"**ME---A MILLIONAIRE? FRANCIS KID, ARE YOU OFF THE BEAM! SURE, MY DAD'S GOT DOUGH APLENTY---BUT OIL'S NOT FOR ME! THAT'S WHAT WE FOUGHT ABOUT---I WANT TO MAKE MY CAREER IN MUSIC---AND THAT'S WHY HE'S CUT ME OFF WITHOUT A CENT!**



"**M**Y HEART THUDDED FIERCELY, BURNINGLY WITHIN ME ---FOR I FEARED THE WORDS I KNEW I WAS GOING TO HEAR!"

"I'M DEAD BROKE, HONEY! MAYBE I WILL HAVE TO LIVE OFF YOUR MONEY FOR A WHILE---BUT ONLY UNTIL MY SYMPHONY BECOMES A SUCCESS!"

"YOU---YOU LYING CHEAT! YOU FORTUNE HUNTER! I WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE---YOU TRIED TO WORM YOUR WAY INTO MY AFFECTIONS SO YOU COULD MARRY MY MILLIONS! I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!"



"**T**HAT SAME THRILLING MAGIC FILLED ME---AND NEXT EVENING, DRAWN BY A STRANGE MAGNETISM, I FOUND MYSELF WALKING ON THE BOWERY! I HAD TO SEE HIM AGAIN---TO SEE IF THAT POWERFUL FASCINATION WAS MORE THAN A DREAM!"

I--I STILL FEEL THE SAME WAY---AS IF SOMETHING DRAWS ME IRRESISTIBLY TO HIM! BUT HE---HE DIDN'T EVEN NOD OR SMILE AT ME! I---I GUESS I'M JUST YESTERDAY'S GUINEA PIG TO HIM... I'D BETTER LEAVE!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND APPRECIATION OF MY LAST PERFORMANCE HERE! GOOD NIGHT---AND GOODBYE!



"**T**HAT WAS THE STRANGEST WALK OF MY LIFE READER! AS IF BE WITCHED, CAUGHT IN SOME STRANGE WEB OF FATE WE WALKED ON IN ENCHANTED SILENCE. NEVER HAD I FELT SO CLOSE TO ANY MAN! AND THEN, ON THE MANHATTAN BRIDGE---"

WHO ARE YOU, THAT YOU SHOULD WALK OUT OF NOWHERE---AND CREEP DEEP INTO MY HEART? I THOUGHT I HAD POWER OVER PEOPLE BUT YOU---YOU HAVE ME HELPLESS BOUND TO YOU!



I--I'M AFRAID I'M NOT ANYBODY REALLY---JUST---A GIRL...

"**I**'D LEARNED MY LESSON---NEVER AGAIN WOULD I TRUST A MAN'S LOVE UNLESS HE WERE IGNORANT OF MY WEALTH! ONLY IF HE THOUGHT ME POOR COULD I BE SURE OF HIM! BUT WAS THERE ANY OTHER MAN I COULD POSSIBLY LOVE? THAT NIGHT, MY DREAMS GAVE ME THE ANSWER..."

"I AM YOUR MASTER... YOU ARE MINE!" "LOVE... YOU!"



"**H**IS LAST PERFORMANCE---IT WAS GOOD-BYE! MY HEART WAS HEAVY WITH DESOLATION AS I SLOWLY MADE MY WAY OUTSIDE---BUT THERE..."

I EXPECTED YOU TONIGHT! I KNEW OHM, YOU COULDN'T KEEP AWAY---I KNOW Y---YES, OF YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY I DO! MAY I---WALK COURSE!



JUST A GIRL---NO---THE GIRL I LOVE!

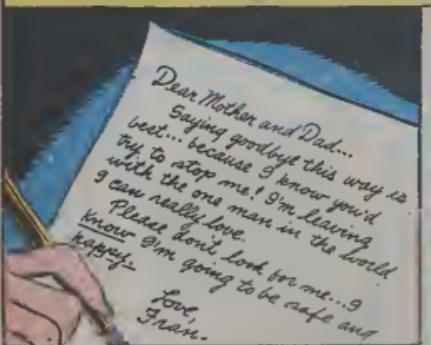
OH... MANFRED...



"**I** WAS A STRANGER---BUT A BLAZING METEOR WHO HAD LIT MY LIFE WITH THE LIGHT OF LASTING LOVE! AND WITHIN HIS STRONG ARMS, HIS LIPS ON MINE, I KNEW I HAD FINALLY FOUND TRUE ROMANCE!"



"**H**e LOVED me -- wanted to MARRY me -- and he didn't know who I was, how wealthy I was! This was the man I was looking for -- his was a love I could be sure of, because it was for myself alone! Heart beating high with the promise of glowing happiness ahead, I made my preparations --

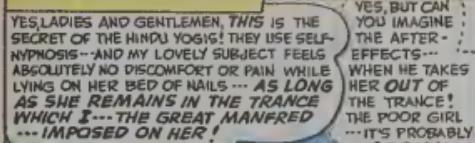


"**Y**es, I was happy -- just being CLOSE to Manfred on the voyage to the West Indies was enough for me! Gladly I served as his constant hypnotic subject --

THIS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IS PROOF OF THE POWER OF HYPNOSIS! THE SUBJECT IS IN A DEEP TRANCE -- AND THEREFORE DOESN'T EVEN FEEL THIS JAB OF THE NEEDLE!

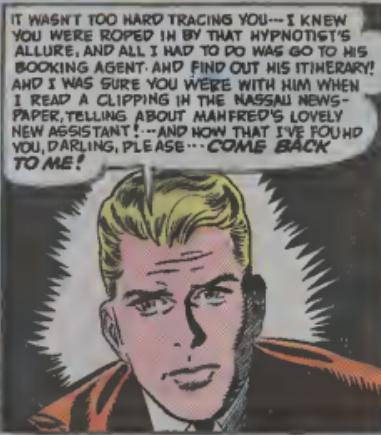


"**M**o, I FELT NOTHING WHILE UNDER HYPNOSIS -- THOUGH MY ARM DID ache for days afterward! But I was glad to do it -- enduring willingly the even greater pain of the hotel performances later!"



"**T**HE PRICE I HAD TO PAY FOR LOVE WAS A PAINFUL ONE -- BUT IT WAS WORTH IT! FOR DAY BY DAY, AS MANFRED'S FEES MOUNTED, WE WERE BROUGHT THAT MUCH CLOSER TO OUR WEDDING DAY!"





"EVEN CAME MANFRED--AND TEMPESTUOUS RAGE VANISHED BEFORE HIS TENDERNESS! RAY'S BLUNDERING ATTEMPTS SEEMED FUNNY NOW--I COULD EVEN LAUGH AS I TOLD WHAT HAD TRANSPRIED!"

...IMAGINE THAT, DARLING--HE THOUGHT HE COULD DESTROY MY LOVE FOR YOU BY TELLING ME FANTASTIC LIES ABOUT YOUR PAST! HA, HA... I ORDERED HIM OUT BEFORE HE COULD SAY A WORD!

HMM!...LISTEN, DEAREST...FORGET ABOUT HIM! I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU! WHY DELAY OUR WEDDING ANY LONGER? WE'RE LEAVING RIGHT NOW FOR A NEARBY TROPICAL ISLE! WE'LL BE MARRIED... AND HAVE THE HONEY-MOON THERE!

OH, DARLING...
DARLING! YOU'VE
MADE ME THE
HAPPIEST GIRL IN
THE WORLD!

FOR NOW
...AND
ALWAYS!

"IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO PACK! BUT THEN--AS WE WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE--"

IT ALL SEEEMS SO RIDICULOUS NOW--BUT JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT, LET'S SEE WHAT IT WAS THAT RAY TRIED TO MAKE ME BELIEVE ABOUT YOU! IT'S RIGHT IN HERE--"

FRAN,
NO!
DON'T...

OH, IT'LL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE
...OHHH! NO, NO!

MANFRED
SENTENCED
FOR FRAUD
JUDGE CALLS
HYPNOTIST
FISTER ON UN-
SUSPECTING
WOMEN

"I STAGGERED UNDER THE IMPACT OF THOSE WORDS,
REELED BACK IN HORROR! A BIGAMIST--A MENACE
---AND THIS WAS THE MAN I HAD THOUGHT TO LOVE!"

RAY WAS RIGHT
---NEWSPAPER
CLIPPINGS DON'T
LIE! I--I WAS
JUST ANOTHER
"UNSUSPECTING
WOMAN" TO
YOU--

ALL RIGHT, IT'S TRUE...SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL LEARN THE WHOLE OF IT! THERE WASN'T MUCH HARM IN USING YOU THE WAY I DID! YOU WERE LOVESTRUCK ENOUGH TO MAKE A PERFECT SUBJECT...AND BEAUTIFUL ENOUGH TO PUT MY ACT OVER WITH A BANG!

I MADE MONEY OUT OF YOU--BUT WHEN I SAW YOUR PICTURE IN A NEW YORK NEWSPAPER THAT REPORTED YOUR MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE, WHEN I FOUND OUT WHO YOU REALLY ARE AND HOW RICH YOU ARE, I REALIZED I'D STUMBLLED ON A GOLD-MINE! THAT WAS WHEN I SAID WE'D BE MARRIED--AND WE'RE STILL GOING THROUGH WITH IT!

NO, I WON'T!
YOU CAN'T
MAKE ME
DO IT!

OH, YES, YOU WILL! YOU'RE MY SUBJECT, REMEMBER? YOU CAN'T FIGHT AGAINST MY HYPNOTIC POWER--IT'S BECOME SECOND NATURE WITH YOU! THAT'S WHY YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK INTO MY EYES--LOOK DEEPLY! I AM YOUR MASTER! YOU MUST OBEY ME!



THOSE EYES --TWIN INFERNAL ORBS-- PIERCING MY BRAIN, MY SOUL! DOWN--DOWN INTO THEIR FIENDISH DEPTHS I SANK--DRAINED OF ALL WILL--HELPLESS! YES, HE WAS MY MASTER--AND I, HIS SLAVE!

YOU LOVE ME--YOU WANT TO MARRY ME--YOU WILL MARRY ME! SAY IT--SAY IT!

YES, I--I LOVE YOU! I--WILL--MARRY YOU!



EXCELLENT, MY DEAR! AND NOW TO HIRE A BOAT THAT WILL TAKE US TO OUR WEDDING ISLE! THERE'S A MINISTER THERE, AND YOU'LL BE MY WIFE SOON--MY RICH WIFE!



LUCKY I PLAYED A HUNCH AND TRAILED THEM! SHE WAS WALKING LIKE SOMEONE WHO WAS DRUGGED--OR HYPNOTIZED!



QUICK! LET ME HAVE A BOAT THAT'S FAST ENOUGH TO CATCH THE ONE THAT JUST LEFT!

SURE THING! TAKE THE BUOYANT BOY HERE--IT'S THE FASTEST LITTLE BOAT IN THE BAHAMAS!



WHAT THE--ANOTHER BOAT--COMING AFTER US! AND THE MAN AT THE WHEEL--IT'S THAT NOSEY FRIEND OF HERS!



ALL RIGHT, MANFRED, YOU'VE GONE FAR ENOUGH! I'M TAKING HER BACK! AND DON'T TRY HYPNOTIZING ME--IT WON'T WORK!

I DON'T ALWAYS RELY ON HYPNOTISM, YOU MEDDLER! I'VE GOT A BETTER WEAPON TO DEAL WITH FOOLS LIKE YOU!





"AS IF FROM SOME DISTANT DREAM WORLD, I HEARD THE VOICE THAT RULED MY MIND AND HEART! ROBOTLIKE, IN A TRANCE, I SEIZED SOME NEARBY OBJECT--LUNGED FORWARD--"



"BUT MY MOMENTUM CARRIED ME FORWARD-- TOO FAR FORWARD!"

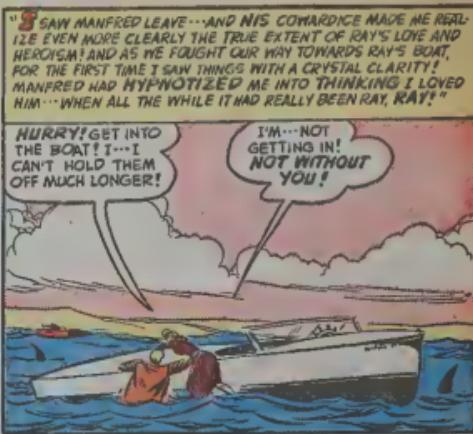


"THE SUDDEN SHOCK OF COLD WATER CLEARED MY HEAD, BROUGHT ME BACK TO REALITY! BUT JUST AS I WAS REMEMBERING WHAT HAD HAPPENED, I FROZE WITH HORROR!"



"I WATCHED--UNBELIEVINGLY! IT WAS RAY--RISKING A HORRIBLE DEATH FOR ME! I'D BEEN SURE HE WAS A MERE FORTUNE-HUNTER, BUT THIS--THIS WAS PROOF OF THE MOST DEVOTED LOVE IN THE WORLD!"





SMALL BUST WOMEN

Special Design "Up-And-Out" Bra
Gives You A Fuller, Alluring Bustline
Instantly

NO PADS! NO ARTIFICIAL BUST BUILDUP NEEDED

Self conscious about your flat looking bustline? Figure Beauty starts with a glamorous bustline. The sensational "Up-And-Out" Bra has an exclusive secret patent pend. feature that tends to lift and cup flat, unshapely, small busts into a FULLER, WELL-ROUNDED, EXCITING BUSTLINE like magic instantly.

One of Our Many Satisfied Customers Below Says:

"... It's amazing how its special feature gives my bustline real glamour."

—Miss Doris Harris, Wichita, Kansas



BEFORE Miss Harris wore the "Up-And-Out" Bra, she was flat, unshapely, and shy.

AFTER she wore the "Up-And-Out" Bra, her attractive bustline gave her poise, confidence.

**Now Wear All Dresses, Blouses,
Sweaters, etc. (No matter how form
fitting) With Bustline Confidence!**

With the "Up-And-Out" Bra underneath, all your clothes will display the sweater girl, feminine curves you desire and require to look attractive. Firm elastic back and easy to adjust shoulder straps. Beautiful fabric — easy to wash. Colors. Nude, White, Black. Sizes: 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38. Only \$2.49. Mail Coupon Now.

SEND NO MONEY!

FREE **10 DAY**
TRIAL COUPON

Tested Sales, Dept. MR-45B12
20 Vesey Street, New York 7, N.Y.

COLORS:

- NUDE
- WHITE
- BLACK
- BLUE

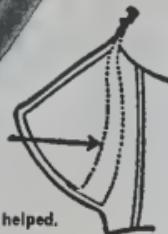
SIZES:

28
to
38



Profile View Of Hidden Feature in Bra

which does wonders for your individual bust problem.



Below are some types who can be helped.

Special patent pending bust molding feature on inside of bra lifts, supports and cups your busts. No Matter Whether They Are Small, Flat or Sagging, into Fuller, Well-Rounded "Up and Out" curves like magic Instantly!



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Rush to me my "Up-And-Out" Bra in plain wrapper in size and color checked below. I will pay postman on delivery \$2.49 plus postage. If not delighted in 10 days, I will return merchandise for my money back.

Size _____ Color _____ How Many _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zone, State _____

Check here if you wish to save postage by enclosing \$2.49 with coupon. Same Money Back Guarantee.



only \$6.98

Such beguiling styling in sheer weight Romaine rayon crepe that shows up your figure to enticing advantage. Alluring accents of lavish lace spice those sweet cap sleeves, and ripple 'round the flirting peplum that complements your ring-sized waist. There's endless intrigue in that glamorous "nude-look" neckline of filmy black morquisselle, and in your exciting curves molded by the 20" back zipper. ROMAINE LOVE-LURE gives you so much sorcery...for such a little price! Only \$6.98



Colors: Black, Beige, Aqua,
Dusty Rose with alluring black
lace.

Junior Sizes: 9 to 17
Misses Sizes: 12 to 20

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WILCO FASHIONS, Dept. L29C 45 East 17th Street, New York 3, N. Y.
Please send me ROMAINE LOVE-LURE at \$6.98

Ship C.O.D. I will pay postage. I enclose \$6.98. You pay postage.

SIZE	1st COLOR CHOICE	2nd COLOR CHOICE

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

If not your heart's desire return in 10 days for full purchase price refund

March/April 1950

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